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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Food Distribution Administration
Washington 25, D. C.

July 7, 1943

DIRECTOR'S MEMORANDUM NO. 59

Industrial Feeding ProgramLIBRARY
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The importance of providing sufficient and proper food for the war worker is now generally recognized by labor, management and others concerned with the war effort. Adequate food and feeding conditions are always desirable, but in a wartime situation they become absolutely essential to war production. Inadequate diets cause a decrease in the war worker's efficiency and an increase both in volume of accidents and in absenteeism. It is a definite part of our wartime food distribution responsibility to see that the industrial worker obtains the food required to enable him to stand the stress of longer hours and faster pace demanded by the war effort.

Within the Food Distribution Administration final responsibility for determining food requirements of all groups of workers rests with the Civilian Food Requirements Branch. The Nutrition and Food Conservation Branch will act in a consultant capacity to the Civilian Food Requirements Branch in determining requirements. Considerable progress has been made in providing for the needs of workers in isolated areas where non-rationed foods are not available to supplement rationed allowances. We shall continue to watch this problem and recommend adjustment to the Office of Price Administration when necessary. Studies are also being conducted to determine whether workers who are not in isolated areas but who are engaged in very heavy manual labor may need additional rations. It now appears, however, that the overwhelming majority of war workers will not require supplemental rations provided that (1) adequate food supplies are available to redeem ration points, (2) non-rationed foods are properly distributed and (3) industrial workers have access to some type of public or commercial eating establishment where a mid-shift meal can be obtained.

The opportunity to supplement home food rations by obtaining meals in restaurants or cafeterias is not now available to industrial workers in many congested areas. It is estimated that about nine million of our twenty million war workers are employed in plants having no eating facilities. In those plants where eating facilities do exist they are often inadequate. Moreover, community feeding facilities in many war industry areas are greatly overtaxed. Shortages of food, labor and facilities have caused many commercial eating establishments to either curtail their operations or shut down completely.

The Food Distribution Administration will provide the leadership in developing a long-term program to give all industrial workers access to in-plant cafeterias, restaurants, or canteens, or nearby community eating establishments, where nutritious mid-shift meals can be obtained at nominal cost. Primary responsibility for program initiation and planning in this field rests with the Nutrition and Food Conservation Branch. This Branch has already made considerable progress on the educational front. Immediate and continued attention will be

given to other phases of the problem. Pursuant to program plans developed by the Branch, and on their own initiative, Regional Administrators shall enlist the aid of representatives of other Federal agencies and of state and local agencies and personnel in order to assist industrial communities in every way possible in meeting their food problems.

Our responsibilities in connection with this program fall into the following fields:

1. Equipment

Through the Special Assistant to the Director, pursuant to Director's Memorandum No. 56, the Nutrition and Food Conservation Branch will furnish the Office of Materials and Facilities with complete and current information regarding the need for industrial feeding equipment. This will involve responsibility for programming and justifying requirements based upon the most efficient use of materials and manpower. The Branch will serve as the point of first reference in reviewing and approving project applications for feeding units. Regional personnel will make plant investigations upon reference from the Washington office. During regular visits to war plants regional industrial representatives will provide assistance in determining the type of feeding equipment best adapted to its needs and will advise regarding procedures to be followed in obtaining needed equipment or facilities.

2. Manpower

Through the Labor Office of the WFA the Nutrition and Food Conservation Branch will continue to bring to the attention of the War Manpower Commission and other agencies problems involved in recruiting, training and retaining essential workers in restaurants and cafeterias. Inter-agency procedures for handling critical manpower situations are now being worked out. Regional officials should establish close working relationships with local offices of the War Manpower Commission.

3. Pricing

The Food Distribution Administration will continue to consult with the Office of Price Administration regarding prices charged in eating establishments and shall submit recommendations regarding the desirability or practicability of further government controls.

4. Education

There is ample evidence that a great proportion of the working population did not obtain proper diets when food supplies were relatively plentiful. It is hardly reasonable, therefore, to expect them to do so in the presence of food shortages, rationing and rising prices, unless the wartime civilian food program is properly geared with an effective educational campaign. The Nutrition and Food Conservation Branch will provide the general overall direction of such a campaign, which will be carried out in the field.

The job to be done by field representatives can be conducted in the following ways:

- a. Advise plant executives on methods of improving in-plant feeding conditions and on most effective use of available equipment.
- b. Advise on setting up effective nutrition education programs for plant employees.
- c. Provide information on source and nature of nutrition posters, pamphlets, flyers, news release programs, etc.
- d. Make suggestions as to cafeteria and canteen menus which provide for employees' nutritional needs.
- e. Advise plant executives as to individuals and community groups which are in a position to assist in nutrition programs.
- f. Help bring about cooperation between plant management and nutrition committees.
- g. Assist in the organization of subcommittees, on Nutrition in Industry, of the nutrition committees, and in the planning and execution of their programs.
- h. Cooperate with state industrial hygiene officers on the development of nutrition programs within industrial plants in their states, since in-plant feeding is in the field of industrial hygiene.
- i. Cooperate with Industrial Hygiene Division and the Division of States' Relations of U. S. Public Health Service on feeding problems in Army Ordnance and other war plants.

Facilities of the Marketing Reports Division both in Washinton and field will be utilized to the fullest extent in developing an educational program through newspapers, magazines, plant publications and radio.


Director

INDEX ENTRIES:

Civilian Programs: Industrial Feeding Program
Industrial Feeding Program (see Civilian Programs)

WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION
Office of Distribution
Washington 25, D. C.

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February 17, 1944

DIRECTOR'S MEMORANDUM NO. 59
Supplement 1

Creation of an Inter-Agency Committee on Food for Workers
and a Labor Advisory Committee

The War Food Administrator has taken the initiative in the formation of an inter-agency agreement to further industrial feeding. Agencies participating in this agreement are the War Production Board, War Manpower Commission, Office of Price Administration, Federal Works Administration, U.S. Maritime Commission, War, Navy, and the United States Public Health Service.

The Office of Distribution has been given the responsibility for the implementation of this agreement. For this purpose there has been created an Inter-Agency Committee on Food for Workers composed of representatives of the cooperating agencies and the Director of the Office of Distribution as chairman. The Civilian Food Requirements Branch in the Office of Distribution will serve as a staff group for the Committee. The primary concern of the Committee will be the expansion of the Industrial Feeding Program. Successful accomplishment of this objective will mean that the industrial workers will have the requisite amount of food necessary to assure the highest efficiency of production.

Since the successful operation of such a program depends to a large extent on the cooperation of labor, a Labor Advisory Sub-Committee to the Inter-Agency Committee on Food for Workers has been established. The function of the Committee is two-fold. First, it will keep labor advised as to changes in policies necessary to meet adjustments in the food situation. It will develop information as to how problems can be solved in the best interests of the war effort and will make available to labor the facilities and services of the Office of Distribution and the cooperating agencies. Secondly, labor will be asked to assume the responsibility for informing all locals as to the manner in which the Industrial Feeding Program operates, what its objectives are, and the importance of proper feeding in maintaining health and productive efficiency. The Chief of the Civilian Food Requirements Branch will serve as the chairman of the Labor Advisory Sub-Committee.


Director

INDEX ENTRIES:

Committees: Inter-Agency Committee for Workers (see Civilian Programs)
Labor Advisory Sub-Committee
Civilian Programs: Industrial Feeding Program:
Inter-Agency Committee for Workers
Labor Advisory Sub-Committee

